

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01176 211016Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /055 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5050
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01176

FOR EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, GW
SUBJECT: SPECULATIONS ON FUTURE OF BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT
CARSTENS

1. FOLLOWING MAY BE USEFUL IN PREPARATIONS FOR PROFESSOR
CARSTENS' FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON VISIT FEBRUARY 5 - 8.
2. SPECULATION IN FRG PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES HAS
FOCUSED FOR SOME MONTHS ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT PROFESSOR
CARSTENS MAY BE A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT WHEN WALTER
SCHEEL'S TERM EXPIRES IN MAY 1979. MORE RECENTLY, THERE
HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT CARSTENS IS ONE OF
THE FIGURES FAVORED BY RIGHT ELEMENTS IN THE CDU/CSU
OPPOSITION TO SUCCEED HELMUT KOHL AS CHANCELLOR-CANDI-
DATE. THIS SPECULATION HAS BEEN FED BY FAVORABLE
REMARKS, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, BY CSU INSIDERS.
3. A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF PROFESSOR CARSTENS HAS TOLD US
THAT CARSTENS IS MORE LIKELY TO WANT TO SEEK THE PRESI-
DENCY, AND WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT THIS AS AN
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ACCURATE ASSESSMENT. IF THE CDU/CSU SUPPORTS CARSTENS,
THEY HAVE THE VOTES IN THE COMPLEX BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG
MECHANISM TO ASSURE HIS ELECTION IN 1979. SUCH A CHOICE
COULD MEAN OFFENDING SCHEEL, WHO IS RUMORED TO WANT A
SECOND TERM, AND COULD PREJUDICE CHANCES TO NEGOTIATE
CONCESSIONS OR ALIGNMENTS WITH THE FDP. THIS, HOWEVER,
IS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS MESSAGE, WHICH IS SIMPLY TO

NOTE THAT CARSTENS SHOULD BE SEEN AS A MAN WITH A FUTURE
AS WELL AS A DISTINGUISHED PAST RECORD.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780142/aaaabjck.tel
Line Count: 65
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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